

Talking Technology

Building the bridge to your critical information

By Steve Burns, Capital News contributor

How you ever had difficulty connecting your information systems?

Have you ever been out of town and needed that one Excel report on your server in Kelowna?

We have all experienced similar technology nightmares— accessing your corporate information remotely can be an expensive challenge.



Fred Dalglish, president & CEO of Dalco Technologies, a Kelowna high tech company that is helping computers to access any database at any time. Photo Gordon Bazzana

This week we go inside Dalco Technologies with company president & CEO Fred Dalglish. Dalco is a leading developer of remote database connectivity tools.

The company is privately held and is headquartered in Kelowna. Dalco has developed a software solution, named dbBridge (www.dbbridge.com).

According to Dalglish, "Our solution truly bridges the gap to allow any remote or mobile user located anywhere in the world to use the Internet (or any wired or wireless network) to connect back to and interact directly with their corporate data... live, in real time, anytime."

The acceptance of world data standards will eventually mean that all applications, not just browser-based applications, will include Internet connectivity.

Applications will be empowered to run from anywhere in the world and connect back to, and interact with, central databases and data sources.

However, as Dalglish comments "dbBridge provides that connectivity now by not only connecting over the Internet, but also by connecting over any wired and wireless, short or long-range network."

Having worked for Accenture on both small and large technology integration projects, I know how expensive it can be to develop these next-generation applications and servers.

These projects often require significant resources, new skill sets and even new development languages.

Most small businesses simply cannot afford to build complex infrastructures, which makes dbBridge even more attractive.

The company has addressed the obvious security concerns of its clients, says Dalglish.

"dbBridge-enabled applications enjoy full security, cross-platform connectivity and exceptional performance over all environments, including low bandwidth, wireless networks."

I was surprised by the software's flexibility. dbBridge enables applications to remotely connect and interact directly with a wide range of centrally-located data sources.

For instance, you can unplug from your LAN and go remote with dbBridge's Universal Remote Data Connectivity.

By making a tool like dbBridge available, the company enables the small and medium sized enterprise to compete in an increasingly competitive business climate.

Although there are other connectivity solutions available today, dbBridge appears more flexible.

For instance, dbBridge allows desktop application and developer tools like Visual Basic, Microsoft Access, MS Excel, Visual C++, MS Office 2000, Visual FoxPro, Lotus 1.2.3., C++ Builder, Delphi, Crystal Reports and many more to connect from anywhere to centrally-located databases to retrieve and update data, using the Internet as a virtual database network.

The company has an impressive track record of working with leading organizations: Fuji/Xerox, Sprint US, Bank of America (NationsBank), 7-Eleven, The U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Federal Courts among others.

In looking at the dbBridge products, I was intrigued to find what innovation separates this company for its competitors?

Well, I think I found it.

If you have a PocketPC, wouldn't you love to access all of your corporate information from anywhere, anytime?

Normally this would take a large development team to implement.

Well, for the first time, with dbBridge for the PocketPC, PocketPCs can access any database information, anywhere, anytime.

"This is an innovation that many PocketPC users will love. The applications of this secure solution to specific vertical market software products are endless, including software for physicians, police and security services, insurance and real-estate agents," Dalglish says.

"This would allow any software provider to put into the hands of their clients, instant and secure access to their data from their CE machine."

Innovation is all about not only identifying market needs but creating new needs.

Picture this...you are at the Vancouver Airport and you notice someone working frantically on their PocketPC.

Little do you know that she is a Kelowna based specialist who has downloaded the dbBridge solution for her Pocket PC (www.dbbridge.-com/dbbdownloads.htm).

She has been asked urgently to look over a patient's x-ray results and provide her comments.

The x-ray is located on her office's practice management database.

From her PocketPC, she provides her comments and updates the information securely in real time, allowing instant access by the referring specialist. As a result, the patient receives real time care, which leverages the country's best minds to help patients.

Endless innovations thanks to Dalco...coming to a PocketPC near you!

Next Week: Rocket Builders.

Steve Burns, CA, CMC, CFP, is the president and CEO of the Burns Innovation Group Inc. If you would like your technology company profiled in the column, contact Steve at 763-4716:

steve@burnsinnovation.com.